

# Family togetherness

“Hullo Sis, how you been?”

“Alright, a bit tired, got my granny here, his mum is sick, she’s been in hospital for a couple of weeks now.”

“Hey Sis, you bring him over here for a couple of days, I’ll watch him.” “Yeah c’mon, gives you a break, and it would be good for me to see my little nephew!”

You, me, our mothers, fathers, uncles, aunties, grandparents and our cousins, we are all one big family. Our family is the place where we learn how to live, how to behave, how to treat people and how to respect everything around us. These teachings we pass on through the generations.

We do this by sharing! When we are sharing our food or our clothing, our money and even our homes, we are also sharing togetherness and responsibilities, our time, our advice and encouragement, our support and our love! All this allows our kids to know, understand and identify who they are.

Even though we might live in another town or somewhere else, we are all still part of our community and can still help with the growing up of our kids.

This growing up is at the heart for us as a community. It lets our kids have close contact with their relatives. Our kids are then able to learn things, and they learn by hearing what we say, watching things being done and practising what they have seen and heard. This is a very important and accepted way of our family life and is a good way for our kids to learn. It’s also a good way for our kids to know they are loved by lots of people.

To be there for each other and to have this connection is important.

## These things might be good to think about

- It’s okay to get support from our parents, our extended family, especially our Elders, for they have lived and learned.
- Teach our kids to identify with and know their extended family.
- Teach our kids how to respect others and why it is important.
- Don’t ‘knock’ but value the differences that each person has.
- Remember that you don’t have to do everything yourself and it’s okay to get support.
- Remember it’s good to have time together, but it’s good to have time by yourself.
- Teach our kids how to do good things by what we do.

This tip sheet, along with the full set of Parenting WA guides, is available in electronic format at [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)



Guiding our children, our way

Even though today our family unit may have changed, and we do not have some or all of our relations around, we mustn't lose sight of the power to love each other, to respect each other and to learn from each other.

## Contacts

### Parenting WA Line

A free 24/7 telephone information and support service for parents and children pre-birth up to 18 years.

**t: 1800 654 432 (free call)**

**w: [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)**

### Department for Communities Aboriginal Early Years – Best Start Program

Best Start is a state-wide program for Aboriginal parents and carers with young children from babies to five years old. Best Start Services are located in the following areas:

- Armadale t: 08 9399 6489
- Carnarvon t: 08 9941 2105
- Goldfields t: 08 9093 3795
- Hedland t: 08 9172 3599
- Mandurah t: 08 9583 9802
- Marble Bar t: 0427 013 144
- Midland t: 08 9274 9411
- Moora t: 08 9651 1294
- Mullewa t: 0408 844 196
- Narrogin t: 08 9881 6693
- Roebourne t: 0438 926 558
- South Lake t: 0427 013 141

**w: [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)**

### Moorditj Yarning

Moorditj Yarning is an Aboriginal-specific program of Relationships Australia WA. Services include counselling, yarning around a broad range of issues, and other programs that Aboriginal community identify as useful.

**t: 1300 364 277**

**w: [www.wa.relationships.com.au](http://www.wa.relationships.com.au)**

Look under “Services we provide” and then look under “Aboriginal services”.

### Playgroup WA

To find your nearest playgroup

**t: 1800 171 882**

**w: [www.playgroupwa.com.au](http://www.playgroupwa.com.au)**

This Guide uses ‘he’ and ‘she’ in turn. Change to suit your child’s sex.

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Department for **Communities**  
Parenting WA